

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY E-911 COMMITTEE

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
December 29, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Churchill County E-911 Committee was called to order at 2:00 PM on the above date by Chairman Sanford.

PRESENT:

Joseph Sanford, Deputy District Attorney, Chairman
Bill Lawry, Churchill County Sheriff's Captain
Mark Feest, CC Communications Representative
John Riley, Fallon Police Department
Sherry Wideman, Comptroller
Ron Wenger, Fallon Police Department

Public Comment:

Chairman Sanford asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

Joseph Sanford confirmed the Agenda was posted per NRS.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Bill Lawry made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. John Riley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Recommendations regarding the implementation of a telecommunication surcharge to fund the operation of the 988 emergency number.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joseph Sanford explained to the committee about SP390 that was passed in 2021. It encouraged the state to find ways to make Nevada compliant with the National Suicide Hotline. To do that, they have a couple of recommendations. One of them was to make a call center where people could call into and it would be staffed 24 hours a day. They were hoping to get four of those but, as of right now, they only have one. They have encouraged the formation of MOSTT teams but that was a very brief thing. Bill Lawry expressed concern about funding and who would be responsible for funding this new system and if it would come out of the current 911 budget.

Chairman Sanford said to fund all of that they created the ability for the State Board of Health to implement regulations surcharging all telecommunication lines with the surcharge similar to the E-911 surcharge in the amount of up to \$.35 per month per line. In January, the State Board of Health is meeting for the adoption of that surcharge looking at the full \$.35 per month per line. This is sort of our chance to say anything if we want to. I will let everybody know what ends up happening. Chairman Sanford said is the State Board of Health running the 988 number? It indicated that might happen but sometimes, when it is legislative form, that is not how it happens. I don't think they have that part figured out yet. I think getting the money to say we need to fix this and, so far, everybody has said that is great but we are not going to do it for nothing, so I think this is trying to create the fund in the state. It would not be a county fund. The E-911 fund is actually in the county but this fund would be within the state and it would at least give them the money so if they need a person or the equipment to go back and forth. Bill Lawry said we are not considering another dispatcher for the 988. If somebody dials 911 and says I am trying to kill myself, so in reference to the fund, the anticipated adverse effect is the cost and setting it up and all of that, so that is what they want the surcharge for. It says the effect on the public is none, negative. If they think the businesses are not going to pass that cost to the people, they are wrong. I don't think we should be creating additional taxes for them to spread out. They should be able to use our current taxes and figure that out, but if they don't get this, they are going to take part of our 911. That is where this all started. They were going to take half of our 911. Chairman Sanford said that is probably the way this is going. This is state-mandated. It is not like we have any choice. It was enabled through legislation back in 2021. They are considering it at the State Board of Health now. We don't have the ability to decide here, we would just be recommending to them whether or not we need it. Largely, what I would say is, it is just a recommendation. They are not going to care what Churchill County says but, if we did want to say something, we would tell them this is the type of equipment we need and how much money we would need. It is going to take 15 years to get that much money. Mark Feest said I talked to the phone company and it just depends on what type of equipment they have and what we need. Chairman Sanford said this should be a state cost and should be more efficient than what we are talking about at the local levels. Bill Lawry said I can see where the big cities are inundated with calls to 911 about someone wanting to kill themselves. We just had one as we walked out of the office today. We always respond and try to get them on the right track. I can see Vegas Metro or Reno not being able to respond to these types of calls. You also have other suicide prevention hotlines. We always respond to these calls. The idea is, if you get a 911 call from someone wanting to kill themselves, we can patch it to the 988. They really don't want law enforcement there but, on the same token, are we going to let someone kill themselves without responding to it? No, we are going to be there but they want qualified counselors to respond.

Bill Lawry made a motion to not forward any comments to the state on this item. Sherry Wideman seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Review of the current E-911 system, proposals for required upgrades, and discussion of any improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Bill Lawry stated that they have looked into upgrading to a new system but it will cost them \$250,000, which they don't have. With the new system, they would be able to utilize a texting type system where the dispatcher would text the phone then the dispatcher would have access to the caller's camera and voice. Mark Feest said the system currently transfers all the calls, tower to tower.

This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Election of a chair and vice-chair.

Joseph Sanford nominated himself for Chair and Bill Lawry as Vice-Chair.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

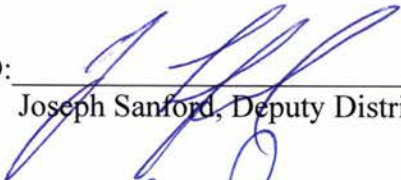
Joseph Sanford made a motion to appoint himself as Chair and Bill Lawry as Vice-Chair. Sherry Wideman seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

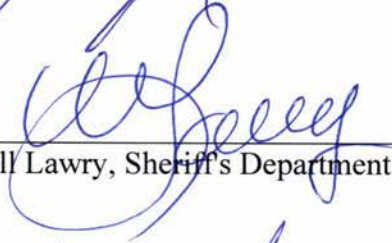
Public Comment:

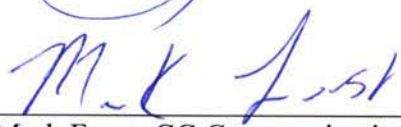
Chairman Sanford asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

APPROVED: 
Joseph Sanford, Deputy District Attorney

APPROVED: 
Bill Lawry, Sheriff's Department

APPROVED: 
Mark Feest, CC Communications

APPROVED: 
Sherry Wideman, Comptroller

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer



Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk